

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 17-24, 39, 43, 51-52, and 54-56 have been amended.

Claims 1-16, 25-31, 40-42, 44, 50, 53, and 57-80 have been canceled.

New claims 81-101 have been added.

Thus, claims 17-24, 32-39, 43, 46-49, 51-52, 54-56, and 81-101 are pending in this patent application.

The Applicants hereby request further examination and reconsideration of the presently claimed application.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claims 50 and 51 have been rewritten in independent form, and thus are in condition for allowance as indicated on page 6 of the Office Action mailed April 21, 2006.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 32-38 are allowed. Applicants have amended all remaining claims to depend from an allowed or allowable independent claim. Likewise, Applicants have added new claims 81-101 that depend from allowed or allowable independent claims. Applicants have added 21 new claims and have canceled a corresponding number of finally rejected claims. Thus, all pending claims are now in condition for allowance.

Prior art rejections

The prior art rejections are now moot in view of the present amendments to place the application in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

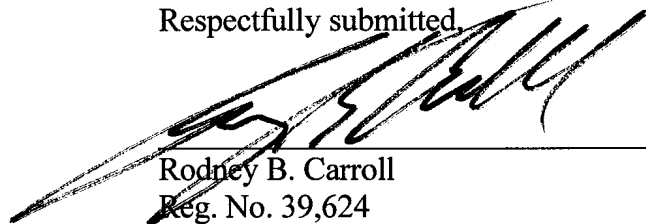
Consideration of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the application, and withdrawal of the rejections and objections is respectfully requested by the Applicants. No new matter is introduced by way of the amendment. It is believed that each ground of rejection raised in the *Final Office Action* dated August 30, 2006 and the *Advisory Action* dated October 13, 2006 has been fully addressed. If any fee is due as a result of the filing of this paper, please appropriately charge such fee to Deposit Account Number 50-1515 of Conley Rose, P.C., Texas. If a petition for extension of time is necessary in order for this paper to be deemed timely filed, please consider this a petition therefore.

If a telephone conference would facilitate the resolution of any issue or expedite the prosecution of the application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number given below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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